

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 /073 W

----- 103115

P R 201041Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3493

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 166

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1052

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

DEPT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, EG

SUBJECT: SADAT'S STATEMENT REGARDING PALESTINIANS

REF: DAMASCUS 1833

1. SADAT'S STATEMENT REGARDING PALESTINIAN ISSUE (REFTEL)
WAS REPORTED IN DAMASCUS PRESS AS FOLLOWS: "I WANT TO
AFFIRM THAT ISSUE OF PALESTINE IS CORE OF PROBLEM IN
MIDDLE EAST, AND WITHOUT ITS BEING SOLVED THERE WILL
NOT BE PEACE IN THE AREA. THIS IS A FACT AND HAS BEEN
SAID BEFORE. WHEN PALESTINIANS REJECT RES 242 AND 338,
THEY HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO DO SO. THIS IS THEIR RIGHT.
BUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT GENEVA CONFERENCE, I WOULD LIKE
TO PUT THIS QUESTION TO THE PALESTINIANS BECAUSE
THE DECISION IS THEIR DECISION: ARE THEY GOING OR
NOT GOING? BUT IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT WHEN THEY
AGREE TO GO TO GENEVA THE PROBLEM IS A POLITICAL
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PROBLEM AND NOT A HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM AS IT HAS BEEN

TREATED IN PAST."

2. AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED CORRECTNESS ABOVE QUOTE DURING MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM MAY 20. KHADDAM ALSO CONFIRMED THAT SADAT HAD BEEN EXPRESSING SOME FRUSTRATION IN ASKING PALESTINIANS WHETHER THEY WOULD GO TO GENEVA. KHADDAM ADDED THAT OF COURSE PALESTINIANS HAD RIGHT TO REJECT RESOLUTIONS AND THAT ISSUE WAS NOW POLITICAL NOT HUMANITARIAN. HE THEN SAID THAT ISREALI ACTIONS WERE NATURALLY AFFECTING ATTITUDE OF ALL PARTIES AND REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO CONTINUED ISRAELI CONSTRUCTION ON GOLAN.
PELLETREAU

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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